



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

## Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

*For Immediate Release*  
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### **Federal Subsistence Refuge Manager Announces Emergency Closures to Conserve Salmon in the Afognak Bay**

*Anchorage, AK.* --- Refuge Manager, Ms. Leslie Kerr, announced closures today for federal subsistence salmon fisheries in the Afognak Bay waters of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. This announcement is in response to low numbers of fish returns, and is occurring to ensure the conservation of the Afognak River sockeye salmon stock. This closure begins at 12:01 a.m. June 7, 2003 and continues through August 7, 2003.

This Special Action closes the federal subsistence seine and gill net fishery for all salmon species within the Afognak Bay waters of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. This action affects all federal waters in the Kodiak Area west of Cape Kazakof at approximately 152° 37.60 West Longitude and north of Afognak Point at approximately 57° 59.40 North Latitude. Subsistence fishing with rod and reel for all species except sockeye salmon continues to be permitted.

The status of sockeye salmon escapement into Afognak River will continue to be monitored by Alaska Department of Fish and Game on a daily basis. Although not anticipated at this time, should the numbers of sockeye salmon entering the river (weir count) significantly increase to where the escapement goal may be realized, then the federally regulated subsistence fishery for this species may be re-opened.

In 1990, the federal government began managing subsistence hunting, trapping, and limited fishing on federal public lands in Alaska under Title VIII of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANILCA). To carry out this responsibility, the Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture established the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

For more information, contact Pete Probasco at the Office of Subsistence Management, (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3375, email [pete\\_probasco@fws.gov](mailto:pete_probasco@fws.gov), or fax (907) 786-3898 or contact Leslie Kerr at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, (907) 487-2600, email [leslie\\_kerr@fws.gov](mailto:leslie_kerr@fws.gov), or fax (907) 487-2144. TTY users may call through the Federal Relay Service (800) 877-8339. Information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program is available on <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.